



MINUTES

COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION TRAINING SESSION

City of Riverside
January 30, 2001, 6 p.m.
Mayor's Ceremonial Room

Present: Commissioners Brewer, Garcia, Gardner, Goldware, Hendrick, Howe, and Redsecker

Absent: Commissioners Egson and Huerta

Interim Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brewer to approve the minutes for the January 16th Training Session. Commissioners Howe and Redsecker seconded. The minutes were approved, with Commissioners Garcia and Redsecker abstaining.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Executive Director Williams

- informed the commissioners that the Policies & Procedures were now in draft form and that a special meeting had been scheduled for Feb. 20th to review the draft, and to vote on whether or not the document is ready to send to the Legal Department. After discussion and without formal motion, it was decided that all the commissioners be sent a copy of the draft, returning these copies with their suggestions to the sub-committees at the meeting of Feb. 13, 2001. The special meeting of Feb. 20 has been postponed.
- asked that the commissioners who are interested in serving as a Commission officers turn in their letters of recommendation, if they had not done so already.
- noted that the regular Commission meeting for February would not be held in the Council Chambers, but in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room.
- suggested that a library be created for the commissioners rather than purchase a copy of requested books for each commissioner. After some discussion and without formal motion, it was decided to start a CPRC library, purchasing two copies of each book that is requested.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

TRAINING – Complaint Procedures

Executive Director Don Williams spoke regarding the complaint process within the Commission. He reviewed the various models of civilian oversight and the various tasks with which the Commission has been charged. Mr. Williams examined the complaint review process, beginning with the filing of a complaint and ending with the recommended findings of the Chief of Police and the Commission being sent to the City Manager, who will make the final determination.

There was some discussion on the processing of complaints lodged through CPRC. Commissioner Goldware felt that there might be a communication issue with complainants after the commissioners were told that many complainants had not returned the complaint forms sent to them by CPRC. He suggested that a follow-up letter be sent to them and was told that this was already in place. Commissioner Redsecker requested that the commissioners be sent copies of the forms sent to complainants.

Another discussion that took place concerned the Commission's review of cases. Mr. Williams had stated that Internal Affairs' recommendations would not be given to the commissioners so that they wouldn't be influenced by those recommendations. Commissioner Goldware noted that Mr. Williams' critiques or recommendations should also be kept separate for the same reason. Mr. Williams advised the commissioners that cases would be given to them for review about two weeks prior to the meeting in which the case(s) would be discussed in closed session.

Mr. Gerald Smith, an audience member, questioned how the commissioners could review an Internal Affairs investigation without being influenced by the recommendation. Mr. Williams answered, telling Mr. Smith that the case investigation is separate from the recommendation and that the commissioners would be reviewing only the investigation.

Mr. Williams reviewed other duties of the Commission such as emergency meetings in the event of a community emergency; policy review and recommendations that apply to specific cases; the review of policies as they are developed or revised by the Police Department; and policy review initiated by the Commission.

There was some discussion regarding speaking to the press. Commissioner Howe noted that if the press contacts any of the commissioners, they are not responsible to speak with them, but that the Chair or Vice-Chair will work in the capacity of Commission spokesperson. Mr. Williams stated that confidence in the Commission is very important and if that confidence is breached, it may not be irreparable, but the error wouldn't be forgotten. Commissioner Redsecker also noted that "no comment" is a harsh way to answer media requests for information, saying that it would be best to explain why no comment can be made.

Mr. Williams also spoke about his community outreach plan. This entails identifying the 26 communities within the City, identifying and contacting the community organizations within those communities, and arranging for commissioners to go to community organization meetings on a regular basis.

There was discussion as to the various ways community outreach can be accomplished. Commissioner Goldware suggested that each month one commissioner attend Mayor's Night Out with Mr. Williams. Commissioner Howe suggested commissioners attend community meetings in the areas closest to them. Commissioner Goldware also suggested contacting the Riverside Chamber of Commerce to ask them about including CPRC brochures in their newspaper.

Mr. Williams spoke last about reporting the activities of the Commission, informing the commissioners that there will be monthly reports that will cover the number of complaints lodged and filed and the nature of the complaints along with other pertinent information. Annual reports will take a comprehensive look at the activity of the preceding year. There may also be special reports. These might be requested by city officials or other agencies, and would be specific to the information being requested.

A hard copy of Mr. Williams' PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

The Commission adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

PHOEBE SHERRON
Administrative Clerk